

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Claims 1 and 3-8 are currently pending in this application.

Supplemental Information Disclosure Statement

Applicant provides herewith a supplemental IDS listing the references from the previously submitted EPO search report dated December 21, 2001.

Submission of Priority Document

Applicant provides herewith a certified translation of the priority document, Japanese Application No. 9-339695 (1997). Applicant respectfully submits that such translation establishes the right to the December 10, 1997 priority date, which removes *Holtermann* and *Fukunaga* as prior art. Applicant respectfully submits that the application is now in condition for allowance.

CONCLUSION

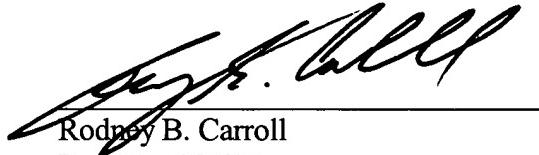
If the Examiner has any questions or comments or otherwise feels it would be helpful in expediting the application, she is encouraged to telephone the undersigned at (972) 731-2288.

The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge payment of any fee associated with any of the foregoing papers submitted herewith to Deposit Account No. 50-1515, Conley Rose, P.C.

Respectfully submitted,

CONLEY ROSE, P.C.

Date: 4-15-04



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